Technology (IICT), Hyderabad. CBI conducts investigation on its own or on the basis of source information.

(b) The details pertaining to the aforesaid cases are:

(i) NIIST had allegedly awarded the contract of setting up of Fresh Chilli Processing Plant at Bayadagi in Karnataka without following the prescribed procedure and instruction on the subject and abused their official position as public servant to cause pecuniary advantage to the Contractor, M/s Japro Engineers Pvt. Ltd., Flower Vally, 1st Flower, Eastern Exp. Highway, Thane - 400601, Maharashtra.

(ii) A team of CTE Chief Technical Examiner (CVC) had conducted the intensive examination of work of structural repairs of the main building of IICT, Hyderabad during 22.5.2006 to 25.5.2006. While follow-up action on the Intensive Examination Report received from CTE was being taken and replies to some of the observations of CTE had already been sent to them, an endorsement dated 1.1.2007 of the PE Registration Report in the matter was received from CBI intimating that the Bureau had registered a PE on the basis of source information alleging that undue favours have been shown to M/s India Guniting Corporation, New Delhi, the firm which executed the work of special structural repairs Work of the main lab. building of IICT, Hyderabad.

In view of pending CBI enquiry, the CTE case has been held in abeyance.

No irregularities were examined by CVO, CSIR in respect of IGIB and NCL.

(c) None of the Directors is facing inquiry (departmental inquiry). Investigation and processing of complaints and irregularities is an on-going process in the vigilance set-up. These are processed keeping in view all the laid down procedures and norms and also keeping in view CVC's instructions issued from time to time.

(d) The outgoing CVO, was an internal officer of CSIR at the rank of Senior Deputy Secretary. In the light of the approved guidelines of the CVC and in accordance with the procedure laid down by the DoPT for the appointment of CVO in publicly funded organizations, a reference had been made by the CSIR to CVC. Based on the advice of the CVC to appoint a full time external CVO, and the approval of the panel suggested by the DoPT in keeping with the requirements of the nature and structure of scientific and industrial research activities of CSIR, the new CVO has been appointed.

International Coffee Genome Network

2261. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is a partner to the International Coffee Genome Network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits derived from it for development of markers, ESTs and transformation for disease resistance during the year?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India is one of the partner countries to the efforts of International Coffee Genome Network (ICGN). ICGN is a worldwide network of Scientists from research organizations, universities, industry within the coffee producing and consuming countries. The first founding meeting was held at Paris on 4th to 5th April, 2005 which was attended by 27 scientists from 12 countries and 3 other International research organizations including 2 scientists from Coffee Board and one from Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad. As on today there are 49 individual members and 5 Institutional members. The national funding for the Indian component is being provided by Department of Biotechnology to six institutes.

(c) The major efforts of the ICGN concentrate on use and conservation of coffee genetic resources through the application of genetic tools. A coffee genome database has been created by ICGN which is an open source database on coffee genomics and includes comprehensive information on the coffee specific microsatellites, ESTs, and other bioinformatic tools. The network would facilitate information and resource sharing within the scientific community and will help breeders by providing molecular tools and know-how for precision breeding. The major objectives of ICGN are development of trait specific molecular markers in coffee, formulation of a global and coordinated strategy for coffee genomics, enhancing the inter-institutional commitment to work jointly for value addition by avoiding repetition and to promote opportunities to fund common research.

Ratification of UN Convention Charter on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

2262. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI AJAY MAROO:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed the UN Convention Charter on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in March, 2007;

(b) whether India has been able to ratify the Convention; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration.

Empowerment of dalits

2263. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the empowerment of dalits and other downtrodden sections lies with the land question in the country;